



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF



February 29, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

## **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A FILMING PROJECT INVOLVING THE CABLE NEWS NETWORK AND JOURNALIST LISA LING**

### **SUBJECT**

This letter provides advance notification to the Board that the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) intends to participate in a filming project (Program) with Cable News Network (CNN) and award-winning journalist, Lisa Ling. Segments of the Program will be filmed inside the Department's custody facilities, and will include interviews with staff and County-sentenced inmates.

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The Program will focus on the present challenges and the vision for the future of the nation's largest jail system. Lisa Ling will produce the hour-long news Program which will air on CNN. Ms. Ling will tell the story through the eyes of Department custody deputies and health care administrators. The Program's aim is to illustrate the significant progress that has taken place inside the jail, while delineating the challenges of managing the enormous and complex inmate population.

Lisa Ling, who narrated a similar profile of the County's jail system 15 years ago, returns to document how the County's jail system has evolved and adapted through its people, its programming, and the County's vision for a new correctional treatment facility. Ms. Ling's intent is to elicit personal narratives from the jail's staff and, to a more limited degree, select sentenced inmates to illustrate the scope of the issues and opportunities in the County jail system.

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The Program's filming will take place inside the Department's Men's Central Jail, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Century Regional Detention Facility, and the North County Correctional Facility, where the Department will have the opportunity to highlight innovations in gender responsiveness, educational and life skill programming, and multiple services to assist with a positive inmate transition back into the community. The Department will also feature its success in improving health care services, diversion, and alternatives to custody in the County jails.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The film company will be responsible for any additional security costs relating to the Program via established overtime rates, which have been approved by the County's Auditor-Controller. Any outside security services will be provided at no cost to the County. Filming will be suspended if any incidents arise and individual inmate privacy will be protected unless a sentenced inmate has agreed to participate, has signed a waiver, and his or her behavior is deemed appropriate. The production will comply with all HIPPA laws.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Department will collaborate with producers to provide an objective, first-person narrative of the County's jail system, told by Lisa Ling through the eyes of staff and inmates alike. The Program will provide the Department an opportunity to demonstrate to the viewing audience the ongoing ethical treatment of inmates in the County's jail system and underscore the hard work and professionalism of the County's employees.

Filming is anticipated to begin in March 2016, and last for no more than 12 days, with an air date on CNN sometime in late 2016.

If additional information is required, please contact Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald, Custody Division, at (213) 893-5001.

Sincerely,



JIM McDONNELL  
SHERIFF